GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:543
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009
MOBILE CONNECTIONS IN BORDER AREAS
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problems being faced by people living in border areas due to inadequate mobile connectivity;

(b) if so, whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has any proposal to install large number of towers in villages bordering the neighbouring countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) There is inadequate mobile connectivity in border areas due to restriction of placement of mobile tower in no service zone of 500 metres width along the international border within the Indian Territory. The Government has removed this restriction in July 2008 subject to the condition that signal emanating from the base station, cell sites or Radio Transmitter fade out when nearing or about to cross International borders and become unusable within reasonable distance across such borders. Subject to the technical feasibility and clearance from statutory authority, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has planned additional 120 Base Trans Receivers to improve mobile connectivity in areas bordering the neighbouring countries.